

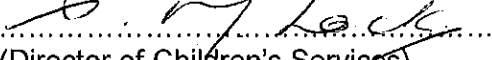
## Report to the Children's Services Cabinet Member for permission to publish a public notice

**The Proposal:** To relocate and expand Chapel Road Community Special School, Attleborough to a site in Old Buckenham to provide a total of 110 places in new-build premises.

Reason for the proposed change	<p>Chapel Road Complex Needs School is currently based in Attleborough and provides 60 places for children and young people aged 3 to 19. It has been consistently judged outstanding by Ofsted.</p> <p>The school buildings are in exceptional need of modernisation and a larger site is required to rebuild the school to meet the present and future needs of its pupils, who have a range of special needs of an increasingly complex nature. The County Council also wants to ensure that it can cater for as many children with special educational needs as possible from the south of the County, to reduce their travel times and costs. The new school will provide 110 pupil places, an increase of 50 places.</p> <p>The site has been identified close to Old Buckenham Primary School and Old Buckenham High School, with the support of these schools, so that collaborative and shared curriculum activities can be developed. The County Council received statutory Planning consent for its proposed building on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014.</p>
Consultation details	<p>Although there is no longer a prescribed 'pre-publication' consultation period for significant changes, there is a strong expectation on schools and Local Authorities to consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication as part of their duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations. The 'pre-publication' consultation period was open for six weeks and closed on 14 July 2014. Copies of the consultation document (Appendix A) were sent to 418 individual addresses in Attleborough and 588 individual addresses in Old Buckenham, to the parents/carers of pupils attending the school, the school staff and Governing Body. They were also available on the Norfolk County Council Citizen Hub website, where online responses could be recorded. Open meetings for all interested parties were held at Old Buckenham Primary School on 17 June 2014 and at Chapel Road School, Attleborough on 18 June 2014. Views could also be made on the consultation document response form and by email to <a href="mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk">schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>All requirements in relation to the pre-publication consultation and decision-making have been complied with and relevant guidance followed.</p>
Number of responses received	127 responses were received (see appendix B)
Number of responses in favour of the proposal	66 respondents stated that they were in favour of the proposal
Number of responses against the proposal	54 respondents stated that they disagreed with the proposal
Number expressing no preference	7 respondents did not state whether they agreed or disagreed
Summary/representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school is in desperate need of an upgrade.</li> </ul>

views expressed in favour of the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal provides the perfect opportunity for the three schools to work together. Sensible to relocate next to mainstream schools. Educational benefits for all three schools, both pupils and staff.</li> <li>• The pupils would have the facilities they need and deserve and provide extra opportunity for the primary and high school.</li> <li>• A much needed resource for Norfolk pupils with complex needs, especially in the south of the County.</li> <li>• Excellent location and plans. In order to fulfil the potential for collaboration with the primary and high school, appropriate pedestrian access should be provided to link the three sites.</li> <li>• The current facilities are totally inadequate and outdated for a complex needs school.</li> <li>• A positive addition to the village.</li> </ul>
Summary/representative views expressed against the proposal / no opinion	<p>One respondent commented in favour of relocation provided that the parking and highways matters were resolved. Another had no objection in principle but considered the location to be inappropriate. For the remaining respondents who disagreed, the highways issues around the proposed school entrance, around the existing schools and elsewhere within the village were of significant concern.</p> <p>A number of changes to the highways layout in the vicinity of the new school location have been made since the consultation and were part of the approved planning application. These included an extension of the present 30mph limit into the village to incorporate the school entrance and a revision of the entrance arrangements to ensure that vehicles do not stack up out on to the highway.</p>
Resource implications	The County Council has been granted £3.83m from the Department for Education. This must be expended by August 2015. The County Council has committed a further £8.02m of its own capital grant funding to meet the estimated costs of the 110 pupil place school including access requirements.
Recommendation	That a statutory public notice be issued to relocate and expand Chapel Road Community Special School as outlined above.

In pursuant of the delegated powers granted to me by the Children's Services Committee (10<sup>th</sup> July 2014) and in accordance within the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2014, I hereby give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposal to relocate and expand Chapel Road Community Special School. This will appear in the Eastern Daily Press on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Signed :   
(Director of Children's Services)

Date : 12.11.2014



## **Consultation on a proposal to relocate and expand Chapel Road Complex Needs School from Attleborough to Old Buckenham.**

Last October we shared with you our proposal to relocate and expand Chapel Road Complex Needs School from Attleborough to Old Buckenham. We have continued to develop proposals and we are now in a position to seek further views.

The purpose of this round of consultation is to:

- (i) advise you of the County Council's formal intent to relocate and expand the school and to seek your views before a Statutory Notice is published
- (ii) share with you the proposed layout and design of the buildings, prior to submitting our planning application. The planning process will provide you with the statutory opportunity to make formal comments.

### **Background**

Chapel Road Complex Needs School is currently based in Attleborough and provides 60 places for children and young people aged 3 to 19. It has been consistently judged outstanding by Ofsted.

The school buildings are in need of modernisation and a larger site is required to rebuild it to meet the future needs of its pupils, who have a range of complex needs. We also want to ensure that it can educate as many children with special educational needs as possible from the south of the County, to reduce their travel times and costs.

### **What are we proposing?**

We are proposing to build a new 110 pupil place school and relocate the building close to another primary and secondary school so it can develop as part of a wider educational campus. This offers the opportunity to share resources and for students and staff to work alongside different groups of learners. A suitable location has been identified in Old Buckenham where land close to the primary school, and opposite the high school, has become available to provide for the new school and a dedicated access.

### **Why do we need this facility?**

We have been working alongside the governing body and headteacher for a number of years to try and make the new school a reality. We now have an opportunity to build upon the excellent work being done by Chapel Road School by extending the range and capacity of specialist provision for children in Norfolk.

### **How big would the establishment be?**

The new school will provide 110 pupil places.

### **How will the building work be funded?**

We have been granted £3.83m from the Department of Education to provide 47 new places. The County Council has committed a further £8.02m of capital funding to meet the estimated costs of the 110 pupil place school including the access road.

**Where would the children come from?**

Chapel Road School is a county-wide facility, but will mainly cater for children from the south of the county. We want to reduce both the costs and the travel time of learners with special educational needs. This proposal provides 50 more places in the south of the County.

**What will be the traffic impact on the village?**

When we consulted last autumn, Old Buckenham residents told us that the entrance to the new school should come off the Attleborough Road, the B1077. We have shared this view with the landowner, who has agreed in principle for us to lease an additional strip to enable this to happen for the use of the new school. This means that the new school will not add further pressure to the traffic around the existing schools, particularly at the beginning and end of the day when the pressures are intense.

We are continuing discussions with the Village Hall committee and Parish Council representatives on the existing traffic and parking situation,

**Maintaining links with Attleborough**

A new school on a site in Old Buckenham, would allow the strong relationship which the school has developed over the years with the Attleborough community to continue.

The school has recently opened its own shop, called 'Gifted and Able', in Attleborough town centre to provide work-related learning opportunities for its students ages 14-19. The extended learning opportunities and the support from the Attleborough community will therefore be able to develop further. The school will also develop support for Attleborough through offering young adults with learning difficulties work placements within the shop setting.

**What are the next decisions to be taken by the County Council?**

At the end of this consultation period (14 July) the County Council will decide whether to publish a Statutory Notice stating its intention to implement the relocation and enlargement proposal. On publication, people would then have a further six weeks to write to us either supporting or opposing the proposal.

Norfolk County Council will then make the final decision before the end of 2014 as to whether or not to implement the proposal.

The earliest that any change could take place would be for September 2015 and the new building is expected to be ready for use by February 2016.

The County Council will also need to submit a planning application for the new building. To comply with the conditions of the Government grant, this will need to be submitted before the Statutory Notice is approved, but any planning permission cannot be implemented without the notice being approved. Our target point for submitting the planning application is late June. Once the application is validated, which usually takes two weeks, there follows a statutory planning period during which people may comment on the scheme, including making formal planning objections.

**How can I learn more about the proposal and have my say?**

**Come and talk to us:** There will be drop-in meetings for parents/carers and other interested members of the community:

- 17 June 2014 at Old Buckenham Primary School 3.30pm to 7.30pm (during the drop-in event there will be a presentation at 6pm)
- 18 June 2014 at Chapel Road School, Attleborough 3.30pm to 7.30pm

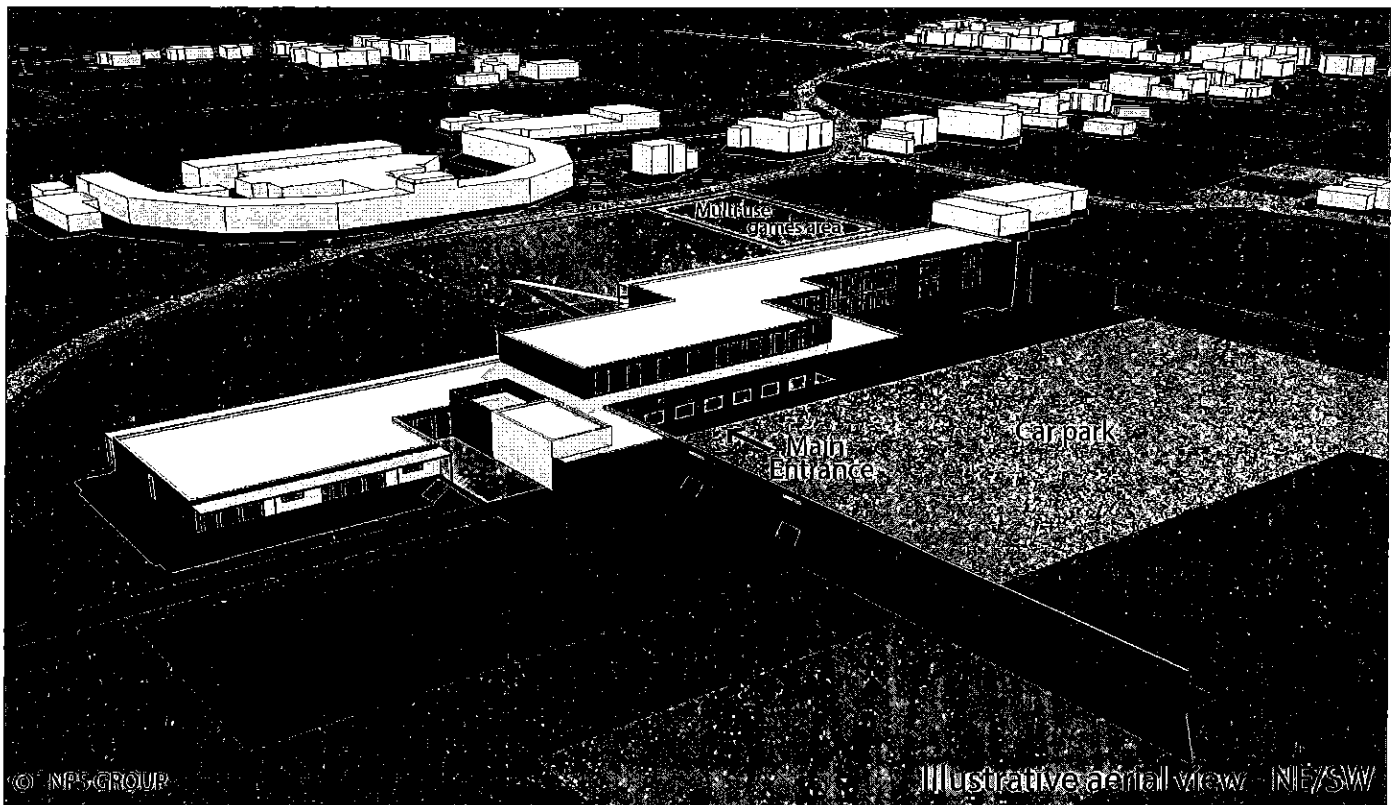
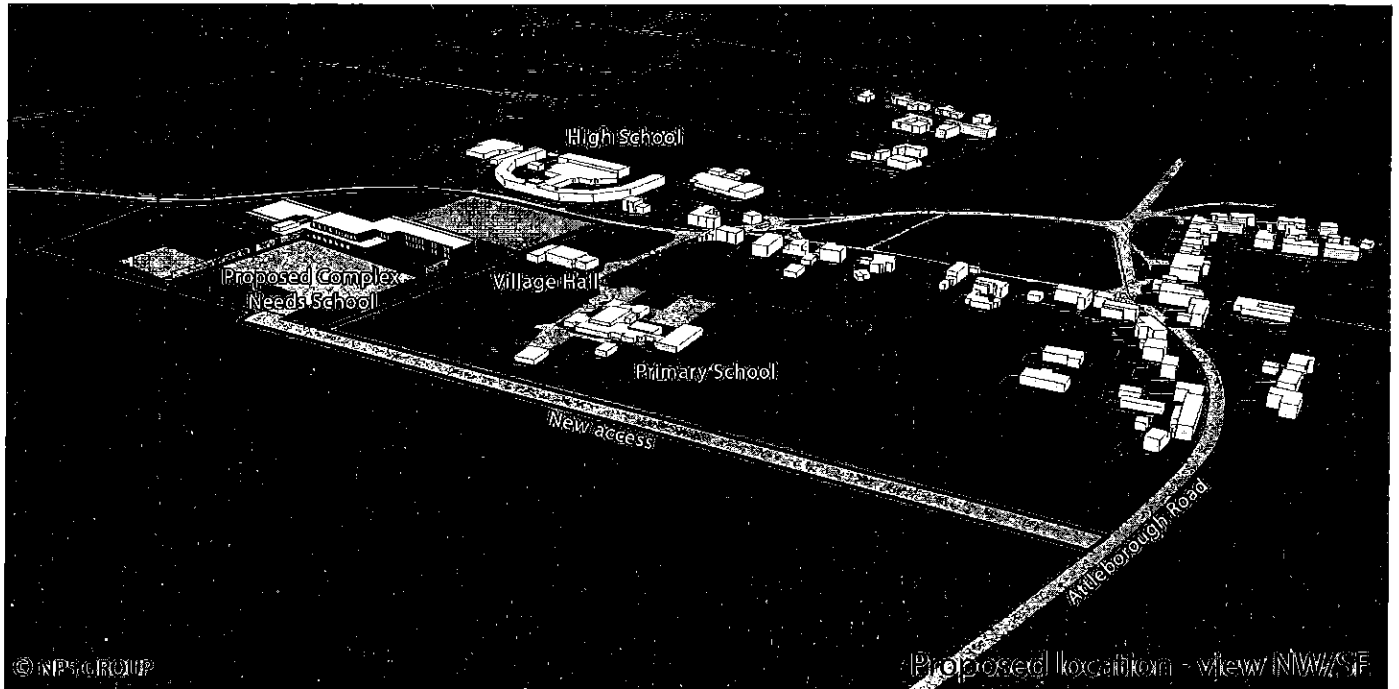
There will be representatives from Norfolk County Council, Chapel Road Complex Needs School and NPS Property Consultants at both meetings.

**You can tell us your views at**

**[www.citizenspace.com/norfolk/consultation/Chapelroadschoolrelocation](http://www.citizenspace.com/norfolk/consultation/Chapelroadschoolrelocation)**, by using the attached form, or email **[schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)**

You can write to us at Chapel Road School Consultation, FREEPOST, IH 2076, Room 22, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp. **We need all responses to this consultation by 14 July 2014.**

Thank you for your interest.





# **Norfolk** County Council

## **Public consultation – have your say**

### **Proposal to relocate and expand Chapel Road Complex Needs School to Old Buckenham.**

**Do you agree with our proposal?**

Yes

☐

No

☐

If you would like to, please give your main reasons for your answer and any further comments

**NOTE:** If your comments relate to the proposed design of the site and building, we will take these into account but they will not be forwarded into the statutory planning consultation – you will be able to make further comments at that stage.

We want to hear from a wide range of people. We will use your answers to help us understand which sections of the community have responded to our consultation. You do not have to answer these questions if you do not want to.

We will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act, which means that we will not give your personal data to any third parties.

Your comments will be anonymous - your name or anything that could identify you will not be included in any report. However, we cannot guarantee that this information will be withheld if it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please tell us who you are:

- ☐ Pupil
- ☐ Parent / Guardian
- ☐ Member of the Parent Teacher Association
- ☐ Member of staff
- ☐ Governor
- ☐ Local resident
- ☐ Local business
- ☐ Local sports group
- ☐ Local community group

Other (please specify):

At which school? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your name?

What is your postcode?

Your views will help us to decide whether or not we make these changes. This consultation ends on **Monday 14 July 2014**.

The Director of Children's Services at Norfolk County Council will make a decision about whether or not to proceed to the next stage. If we decide to go ahead, we would then have to publish a formal public Statutory Notice. A final decision would then be made by the end of the year.

You can tell us your views at [www.citizenspace.com/norfolk/consultation/chapelroadschoolrelocation](http://www.citizenspace.com/norfolk/consultation/chapelroadschoolrelocation), by using the attached form which can be returned via your local school or email [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk) or post to: Chapel Road Complex Needs School Consultation, FREEPOST, IH2076, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You do not need a stamp.



If you need this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact

Tel: 01603 223480

Fax: 01603 222119

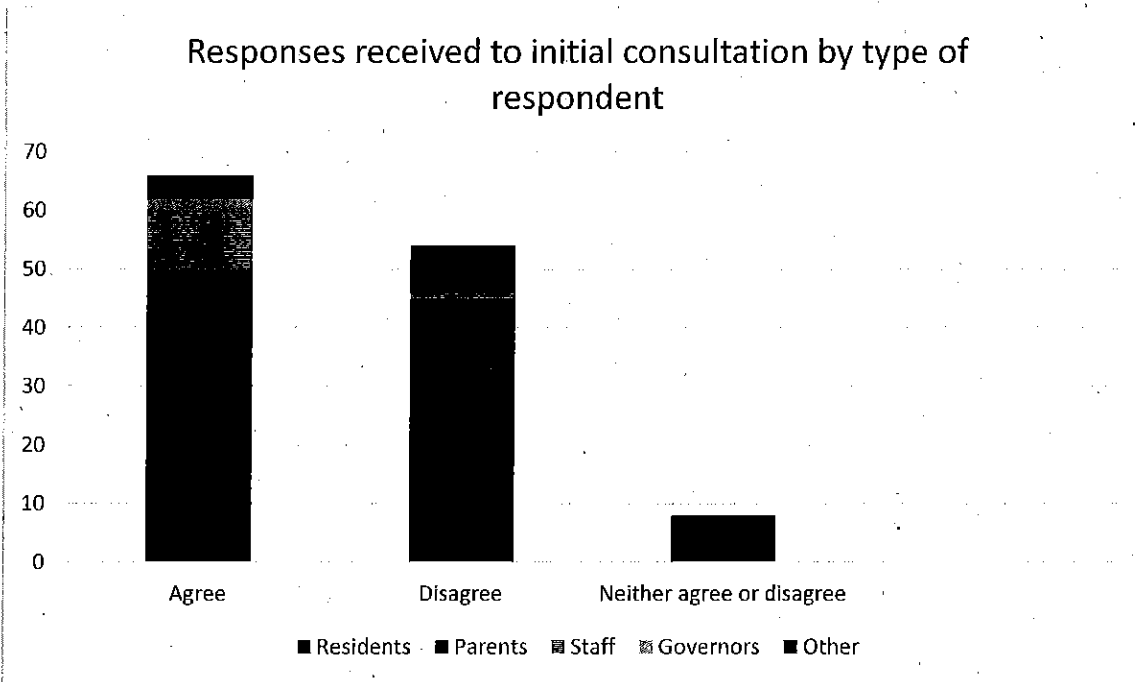
Textphone: 0344 800 8011

Email: [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk) and we will do our best to help.



## Chapel Road initial consultation – Relocation and expansion

Responses received: 127



### Agree with the proposal: 66

26 respondents commented on the educational merit of the proposal

22 respondents commented on the highways issues

3 respondents made other comments which included: a perceived lack of investment at the high school, that the community should be allowed the use of facilities, good pathways were needed to connect all three school sites.

Of the respondents, 40 are residents; 10 are parents of pupils; 10 are members of staff; 2 are school governors; 4 gave no identification.

Of those with connections to schools, 7 named Chapel Road School; 6 named Old Buckenham Primary School; 4 named Old Buckenham High School; 2 named Old Buckenham Pre-School; 1 named a school outside the cluster.

### Disagree with the proposal: 54

1 commented in favour of relocation provided the parking and highways matters were resolved. However for 41 respondents the highways issues were of concern.

13 respondents made other comments which included: a perceived lack of investment at the high school, lack of community facilities, poor linkage between the three sites, fewer opportunities for student integration in Old Buckenham, poor infrastructure in Old Buckenham, the potential for high level noise from the pitches, that education merits were unclear and students less isolated in Attleborough, the village should remain as a village.

Of these respondents, 33 are residents, 12 are parents of pupils, 1 is a members of staff, 8 gave no identification.

Of those with connections to schools, 7 named Chapel Road School, 16 named Old Buckenham Primary School, 7 Named Old Buckenham High School, 2 named Old Buckenham Pre-School, 1 named a school outside the cluster

**7 respondents neither agreed or disagreed**

Of these all are residents, except one who did not give any identification.

Their comments included

Interaction between the 3 schools should be encouraged and the community allowed use of all facilities e.g. swim pool, create VI provision at the high school, village boundary should not be extended given expansion of Attleborough to the south, the relationship between the Old Buckenham schools given their move to Trust status, sensible access arrangements and highways issues, adequate parking arrangements, lack of pathways/pavements and health and safety of students and residents.